

Vice Mayor and District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers



It was great to see so many District IV neighborhood and advisory-board representatives at the City Commission's Swearing-In Ceremony on March 17. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to show your support. We are already gearing up to develop our FY 2016 Commission Annual Action Plan, during an upcoming priority-setting workshop. We'll be meeting on Thursday, April 30 from 8:30 AM – 5 PM at the Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club. The discussions may carry over to Friday, May 1, as well.

Telephone Town Hall Meetings – Fort Lauderdale will host a series of five Telephone Town Hall Meetings to give neighbors a chance to provide input on City services, initiatives, and events. Please mark your calendar for these meetings: Mayor Seiler – Tuesday, March 24;

District I Commissioner Roberts – Thursday, April 16; District II Commissioner Trantalis – Wednesday, May 13; and District III Commissioner McKinzie – Thursday, June 18. My meeting is set for Thursday, September 10. All meetings will be open to everyone, regardless of the Commission District in which you live or work. Neighbors with listed phone numbers will receive a phone call prior to the start of the session. You may stay on the line to share your ideas or listen. You may also call the toll free number 888-409-5380 to join in from 7 - 8 PM on the given dates.

Noise Issues – My office has been receiving numerous reports of excessive noise from both train horns and aircraft taking off from Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, using different flight patterns, now that the new South Runway is open. (1) As to the trains, we're working with our regional partners to create Quiet Zones along the Florida East Coast Railway line, so train conductors will no longer need to blow their horns at intersections. (2) As to aircraft noise, the City Commission passed a resolution on March 17 to encourage Broward County and the Federal Aviation Administration to work together to reduce aircraft noise by exploring flight pattern opportunities that are reasonable and provide operational safety, while reducing aircraft noise impacts to the surrounding communities. (3) In addition, many residents report after-hours noise due to outdoor events nearby. We will be revising the time restrictions for such events, and the new limits will be posted on our website in the near future.

Town Hall on School Boundaries – On February 23, I convened a Town Hall Meeting on the proposed changes to the Harbordale Elementary School boundary. School Superintendent Robert W. Runcie, School Board Member Heather Brinkworth, the demographics staff from the School Board, and about 100 parents with children at potentially affected schools, and others, attended. The meeting served as a platform for our residents to voice their opinions, ideas, and concerns about the proposals. The first public hearing on school boundaries was held at the School Board's February 25 Meeting at Plantation High School. The second public hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 8 at 5:30 PM, also at Plantation High School, 6901 NW 16 Street in Plantation.

New Sculpture for State's 500th Birthday – On March 20, I participated in the unveiling ceremony for "Florida" A Seminole Girl, a bronze sculpture monument, designed in celebration of Florida's 500th Birthday. The statue, created by international sculptor and painter, Nilda Maria Comas, is at Stranahan Landing, (formerly "Tunnel Top Park"), 500 South New River Drive East, on land gifted for the project by the City. Many attendees took the Riverwalk Water Trolley to the site from Stranahan House, across the New River. Placed on this site, the sculpture symbolizes the great friendship between Fort Lauderdale pioneers Frank and Ivy Stranahan and the Seminoles. The monument was funded in large part by Ms. AJ Acker, along with approximately 100 of our neighbors.

Free Income Tax Preparation – Through April 11, the City is offering this free service for individuals with an annual income of less than \$53,000. Services are offered at Carter Park, 1450 W Sunrise Boulevard, Thursdays from 6 - 9 PM and Saturdays from 10 AM - 2 PM. No appointment is necessary. For details, call 954-828-5411 or see <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/Home/Components/News/News/297/16?backlist=%2f>.

New "Express Lane" Service – Within the Department of Sustainable Development, the Building Services Division has implemented an "Express Lane" window to provide faster service to our neighbors. This innovative checkout experience reduces wait times, allowing neighbors to process transactions that require minimal effort in a more efficient and effective manner. The Express Lane is available for the following services: Contractor License Updates, Replacing TBD Sub-Contractors, Print/Reprint Permits, Permit Corrections Drop Off/Pick Up, Notary Public, Payments, Revision (Drop Off), and Voiding Permit Requests. Permit service hours are now from 8 AM to 4 PM.

Events

- **Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off** – April 11, Mills Pond Park, 2201 NW 9 Avenue, 9 AM - 2 PM
- **Farmer's Market at Broward Health** – 1600 S Andrews Avenue, 9 AM - 3 PM on Tuesdays through June 2
- **Las Olas Sunday Market** – YOLO Plaza, 333 East Las Olas Boulevard, 9 AM - 3 PM
- **Riverwalk Noon Tunes** – Huizenga Plaza, Noon - 1:30 PM on Wednesdays from March 25 - May 27

➤ My City Hall Office Hours are Mondays from 2 – 5:30 PM and Tuesdays from 9 AM – Noon (in non-Commission weeks). To schedule a meeting, please contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 or mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov.